

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete list of the claims.

1-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently amended) A method of reducing insect infestations, wherein the method comprises introducing into a plant a gene encoding a modified Cry3Bb* polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide is expressed in an insecticidally effective amount, and wherein said polypeptide comprises one or more point mutations in or near α helix 4, wherein said one or more point mutations result in at least one amino acid substitution of selected from the group consisting of Leu158 to Arg, Ser160 to Asn, Lys161 to Pro, Arg162 to His, Asp165 to Gly, and Lys189 to Gly, and wherein said modified Cry3Bb* polypeptide further comprises one or more of the amino acid substitutions selected from the group consisting of His231 to Arg replaced by arginine, Ser311 to Leu replaced by alanine, leucine or threonine, Asn313 to Thr replaced by threonine, Glu317 to Lys replaced by lysine, and Gln348 to Arg replaced by arginine.

39. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a Coleopteran-resistant plant seed, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

(a) transforming a plant cell with a nucleic acid segment comprising a gene encoding a modified Cry3Bb* polypeptide wherein:

said polypeptide comprises one or more point mutations in or near α helix 4, and wherein said one or more point mutations result in at least one amino acid substitution of selected from the group consisting of Leu158 to Arg, Ser160 to Asn, Lys161 to Pro, Arg162 to His, Asp165 to Gly, Lys189 to Gly, to produce a transformed plant cell;

(b) producing a transgenic plant from said transformed plant cell; and

(c) obtaining a Coleopteran-resistant seed from said transgenic plant, wherein said plant seed exhibits increased Coleopteran-resistance as compared to a non-transformed seed;

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